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EXAMINER

PAUL, DISLER

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/686,669	<b>Applicant(s)</b> LEE, MAN-HEE	
	<b>Examiner</b> DISLER PAUL	<b>Art Unit</b> 2614	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

DETAILED ACTION

***Response to Arguments***

The Applicant filing of the English translation of the foreign document has been analyzed and thus, the rejection made over Choi et al. has been overcome.

Furthermore, the claims has been analyzed and rejected over Scarlett et al. and Carter et al.

This office action is made non-final.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. Claims 1-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph,

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

- a. Claims 1-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Applicant's amended claims wherein "a switching unit causing each one of the connection ports to be able to be connected to each one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to the connection ports" is ambiguous.

Art Unit: 2614

Thus, the examiner will read such claim language as having "a switching unit causing each one of the connection ports to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to the connection ports".

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-2; 5; 12-15; 19; 21-30; 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Scarlett et al. (US 6,856,046 B1).

Re claim 1, Scarlett et al. disclose of a control method of a computer system having at least one connection port to which an audio apparatus is connected and a plurality of audio circuit parts operating according to a type of the audio apparatus, comprising: selecting the type of the audio apparatus; and selectively connecting

Art Unit: 2614

an audio circuit part co-operable with the selected audio apparatus type from among the plurality of the audio circuit parts and each one of the connection ports, a switching unit causing each one of the connection ports to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to the connection ports (fig.2 (J1, 34; 40); fig.3; col.2 line 45-65 & col.3 line 1-15; col.5 line 35-55/same/common port to be used for reconfigure audio circuits with plurality of audio apparatus as in (microphones or headphone or speakers) for enabling to function).

Re claim 2, the control method of the computer system according to claim 1, wherein the selecting is performed by a type selection program based on an operating system to select the type of the audio apparatus (fig.4; col.5 line 35-50/operating system to enable such selection).

RE claim 5, the computer system comprising: at least two connection ports, an audio apparatus being connected to each of the connection ports; a plurality of audio circuit parts operating according to a type of the audio apparatus a switching unit causing each one of the connection ports to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to the connection ports; and a control part controlling selective connection of each of the connection ports to

Art Unit: 2614

one of the plurality of the audio circuits operable with the audio apparatus type (fig.2 (J1, 34; 40); fig.3; col.2 line 45-65 & col.3 line 1-15; col.5 line 35-55; col.7 line 40-55; col.1 line 12-25/same/common port (among plurality of ports) to be used for reconfigure audio circuits with plurality of audio apparatus for enabling to function).

RE claim 12, a sound card mounted on a computer system and inputting/outputting a sound, comprising (the recitation: sound card has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble) and at least two connection ports, an audio apparatus being connected to each of the connection ports; a plurality of audio circuit parts operating according to a type of the audio apparatus; and a switching part selectively connecting an audio circuit part co-operable with the type of the audio apparatus from among the plurality of audio circuit parts and each one of the connection ports, the switching part causing each of the connection ports to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to each connection port (see claim 5 rejection analysis).

RE claim 13, the sound card according to claim 12, wherein the switching part selectively connects according to a type selection

Art Unit: 2614

program executing in the computer system (fig.4; col.7 line 15-65/programs so to operate accordingly).

Reclaim 14, a computer sound card, comprising: two or more connection ports to which audio apparatuses are connected; an audio signal processor processing input and/or output audio signals from/to the audio apparatuses connected to any one of the connection ports independent of a type of each audio apparatus, the audio signal processor including a plurality of audio circuit parts; and a switching part selectively connecting an audio circuit part co-operable with the type of the audio apparatus from among the plurality of audio circuit parts and each one of the connection ports, the switching part causing each one of the connection ports to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on a type of the audio apparatus that is connected to the connection ports (see claim 5 rejection analysis).

Re claim 15, the computer sound card of claim 14, wherein the audio signal processor comprises: a controllable controller selectively connecting each connection port to the audio circuit parts compatible with the audio apparatus type connected to each connection port (col.3 lien 30-60/configure the audio parts to appropriate port for functioning).

Similarly Re claim 19 has been analyzed and rejected with respect to claim 5.

Re claim 21, the method according to claim 19, further comprising sending an audio signal at a first time and receiving another audio signal at a second time using a single port (col.1 line 50-60; fig.4/single port enabling such configuration and send/receiving of signal).

RE claim 22, the method according to claim 21, wherein the sending an audio signal at a first time comprises of sending a speaker signal generated from a sound generating device in a computer (col.1 line 13-25 & col.2 line 40-60/speaker signal).

Re claim 23, the method according to claim 21, wherein the receiving another audio signal at a second time comprises of receiving an audio signal from an external device (col.2 line 40-65).

Re claim 24, the method according to claim 21, wherein the receiving another audio signal at a second time comprises of receiving audio signal from a mike (col.2 line 40-65).

Re claim 25, the method according to claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of input and/or output port is capable of receiving and



Art Unit: 2614

sending audio signal to and from the external device (col.2 line 40-65; col.3 line 5-25; fig.4).

Re claim 26, the method according to claim 19, further comprising sending an audio signal generated from a sound generating device of a computer (col.3 line 5-35/generate sound to audio headphone/speaker output audio signal).

Re claim 27, the method according to claim 26, wherein the computer is a personal computer (col.1 line 10-35).

Re claims 28-29 have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claim 24.

Re claim 30 has have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claim 27.

Re claim 33, the method according to claim 19, further comprising assigning a function to the detected port in the detecting step (col.2 line 1-10).

Re claim 34, the method according to claim 33, wherein the assigning a function comprises of selecting either of receiving an audio signal function or sending an audio signal function (col.2 line 1-10).

Re claims 35-37 have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claims 24, 26, 27 respectively.

RE claim 38, the method according to claim 36, wherein the step of assigning a function or the sending function is performed in accordance with a user input (fig.1 (13,28); col.4 line 35-60/in accordance to input device to jack by user).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scarlett et al. (US 6,856,046 B1) and Baker et al. (US 7,099,481 B2).

Re claim 6, the computer system according to claim 5, wherein the control part is a machine-readable type selection program based on an operating system (fig.2 (36); col.3 line 30-50).

But, Scarlett et al. fail to disclose of the controller being a machine-readable storage storing a type selection program based on an operating system. However,

Art Unit: 2614

Baker et al. disclose of a system wherein the similar concept of having control part being a machine-readable storage storing a type selection program based on an operating system (col.1 line 10-30; col.3 line 55-67). Thus, it would have been obvious the combination with the control part being a machine-readable storage storing a type selection program based on an operating system for carrying the stored instruction for processing.

Re claim 7, the computer system according to claim 6, further comprising a switching part controlled by the type selection program to selectively connect the plurality of the audio circuit parts and the at least two connection ports to each other (fig.2 (34); fig.3).

Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scarlett et al. (US 6,856,046 B1) and Baker et al. (US 7,099,481 B2) and Carter et al. (US 7,039,205 B1).

Re claim 8, the computer system according to claim 7, but, the combined teaching of Scarlett et al. and Baker et al. as a whole, fail to disclose of the wherein the type selection program displays a user selection window for selecting the type of the audio apparatus on a monitor.

Art Unit: 2614

But, Carter disclose of a system wherein the type selection program displays a user selection window for selecting the type of the audio apparatus on a monitor ("fig.8; col.6 line 55-67"). Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified the combination with wherein the type selection program displays a user selection window for selecting the type of the audio apparatus on a monitor for enabling the manual configuration of the audio apparatus.

Re claim 9, the computer system according to claim 8, wherein the type selection program displays the user selection window for selecting the type of the audio apparatus on the monitor, upon connection of the audio apparatus to the connection port (fig.8).

**Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scarlett et al. (US 6,856,046 B1) and Carter et al. (US 7,039,205 B1).**

RE claim 3, the control method of the computer system according to claim 1, but, Scarlett fail to disclose of wherein the selecting of the type of the audio apparatus comprises displaying a user selection window for selecting the type of the audio apparatus on a computer system monitor.

Art Unit: 2614

But, Carter disclose of a system wherein the selecting of the type of the audio apparatus comprises displaying a user selection window for selecting the type of the audio apparatus on a computer system monitor ("fig.8; col.6 line 55-67"). Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified the combination with the selecting of the type of the audio apparatus comprises displaying a user selection window for selecting the type of the audio apparatus on a computer system monitor for enabling the manual configuration of the audio apparatus.

Re claim 4, the control method of the computer system according to claim 3, further comprising detecting that the audio apparatus is connected to the connection port (scarlet, fig.1 (J1,32)/to enable connection to the port) and the combination of Scarlett et al. and Carter et al. as a whole, would have further disclose of the wherein the user selection window is displayed on the monitor according to the detecting ("fig.8; col.6 line 55-67").

5. Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scarlett et al. (US 6,856,046 B1) and Baker et al. (US 7,099,481 B2) and Carter et al. (US 7,039,205 B1) and further in view of Fado et al. ("6,504,553 B2").

Art Unit: 2614

Re claim 10, the computer system according to claim 9, but, the combined teaching of Scarlett et al. and Baker and Carter et al. as a whole, fail to disclose of the further limitation wherein in the user selection window is a connection port display window to display whether the audio apparatus is connected to a corresponding connection port via each displayed connection port. But, Fado et al. disclose a system with sound card in which include the further limitation wherein in the user selection window is a connection port display window to display whether the audio apparatus is connected to a corresponding connection port via each displayed connection port ("fig.8;col.3 line 40-65; col.5 line 45-55/graphic display of connection ports). Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination with incorporating the further limitation wherein in the user selection window is a connection port display window to display whether the audio apparatus is connected to a corresponding connection port via each displayed connection port for the purpose of helping a user through troubleshooting and determining the proper audio settings.

Re claim 11, the computer system according to claim 10, wherein the port display window provides an audio apparatus type selection button for each displayed connection port, and the type selection program controls the switching part so that if the audio apparatus type selection button is selected for a displayed connection port, the connection port corresponding to the displayed connection port with

Art Unit: 2614

the selected audio apparatus type selection button is activated by connecting the audio circuit part corresponding to the selected audio apparatus type selection button with the corresponding connection port ("Fado, fig.1-8; col.5 line 45 up to col.6 line 6; col.7 line 30-37/user may select through display connection port").

Claims 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scarlett et al. (US 6,856,046 B1).

Re claim 31, the method according to claim 29, wherein the external device includes a device capable of generating an audio output capable of being connected to a port of a computer (col.3 line 5-30).

But, Scarlet et al. fail to disclose of the port being a line-in port, but, official notice is taken having a port being a line-in port is well known in the art. Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified the combination with them a port being a line-in port for enabling recordation and processing of the audio signal.

Re claim 32, the method according to claim 31, wherein the computer is a personal computer (col. 1 line 25-55).

Art Unit: 2614

6. Claims 16-18; 20, 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scarlett et al. (US 6,856,046 B1) and Fado et al. ("6,504,553 B2").

Re claim 16, Scarlett et al. disclose of a machine-readable storage storing at least one program controlling a multimedia component of a computer system according to a process comprising: selecting a multimedia apparatus type for at least one connection port of a plurality of connection ports (fig.2 (J1); col.2 line 40-60; col.3 line 5-25; col.7 line 40-50); and controlling the multimedia component to connect the at least one connection port to a compatible information signal processor of the multimedia component according to the selection, a switching unit causing each one of the connection ports to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to the connection ports, wherein each of the connection ports is selectively connectable to the information signal processor of the multimedia component compatible with the multimedia apparatus type (fig.2 (J1, 38,40); fig.3-4; col.3 line 35-46; col.5 line 35-50).

However, Scarlett et al. fail to disclose of displaying a connection port selection window and selecting. But, Fado et al. disclose a system with sound card in which include the further limitation displaying a connection port selection window ("fig.8; col.1 line 1-35; col.3 line 40-50; col.5 line 45-67"). Thus, it would



Art Unit: 2614

have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination with incorporating the further limitation displaying a connection port selection window for the purpose of helping a user through troubleshooting and determining the proper audio settings.

Re claim 17, the machine-readable storage of claim 16, wherein the displaying of the connection port window comprises displaying connection port images corresponding to connection ports of the multimedia component ("fig.8; col.3 line 40-50; col.5 line 45-67").

Re claim 18, Scarlett et al. disclose of a computer system, comprising: a multimedia component having two or more same standard connection ports; and a programmed computer processor detecting connection of a multimedia apparatus to one of the connection ports and a switching unit causing each one of the connection ports to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to the connection ports, wherein each of the connection ports is selectively connectable to the information signal processor of the multimedia component compatible with the multimedia apparatus (fig.1-3; col.7 line 35-55/plurality of common ports with switching for connect audio apparatus to circuit parts via port).

However, Scarlett et al. fail to disclose of a displaying a graphical user interface comprising connection port images

Art Unit: 2614

corresponding to the connection ports of the multimedia component, activating multimedia apparatus type selection menus for each connection port image. But, Fado et al. disclose a system with displaying a graphical user interface comprising connection port images corresponding to the connection ports of the multimedia component, activating multimedia apparatus type selection menus for each connection port image ("fig.8; col.1 line 1-35; col.3 line 40-50; col.5 line 45-67"). Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination with incorporating the further limitation displaying a graphical user interface comprising connection port images corresponding to the connection ports of the multimedia component, activating multimedia apparatus type selection menus for each connection port image for the purpose of helping a user through troubleshooting and determining the proper audio settings.

The modified combined teaching of Scarlett et al. and Fado et al. as a whole, would have disclosed of controlling the multimedia component to connect the one connection port connected to the detected multimedia apparatus to a compatible information signal processor of the multimedia component according to a multimedia apparatus type selection in the activated multimedia apparatus type selection menu for the one connection port (scarlett, fig.1-3/controlling media component to compatible information processor).

Art Unit: 2614

Re claim 20, the method according to claim 19, with having detected the first signal, But, scarlett et al. fail to disclose of the specific wherein displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first signal. But, Fado et al. disclose of the specific wherein displaying an indication to the user in dependence of a first signal (fig.8; col.5 line 40-65/display and signal connections as appropriate). Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified the combination with the displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first signal for the purpose of helping a user through troubleshooting and determining the proper audio settings.

RE claim 39, Scarlett et al. disclose of the method of informing a user of a connection status in a device having a plurality of signal input and/or output ports, the method comprising: detecting which one of the input and/or output ports is currently connected to an external device; outputting a first detection signal detecting at least one port of a plurality of connection ports which has the external device connected thereto (fig.1-3; col.7 line 35-55).

However, Scarlett et al. fail to disclose of the specific wherein displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first signal. But, Fado et al. disclose of the specific wherein displaying an indication to the user in dependence of a first signal (fig.8; col.5 line 40-65/display and signal connections as appropriate). Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified the combination with the displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first

Art Unit: 2614

signal for the purpose of helping a user through troubleshooting and determining the proper audio settings.

The combined teaching of Scarlett et al. and Fado et al. as a whole, further disclose of the specific wherein assigning a function to the detected port; wherein the assigning function comprises selecting either one of receiving a signal from an external device or sending a signal to an external device, and wherein each of the connection ports is selectively connectable to one of the input and/or output ports co-operable with the external device connected to each of the connection ports, a switching unit causing each one of the connection ports to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to the connection ports (fig.1-3; col.5 line 35-55; col.3 line 5-50/plurality of audio apparatus may be configured to same ports).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for

Art Unit: 2614

patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1-9; 12-16; 18-19; 21-38 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carter et al. ("7,039,205").

Re claim 1, Carter et al. disclose a control method of a computer system having at least one connection port to which an audio apparatus is connected and a plurality of audio circuit parts operating according to a type of the audio apparatus ("fig.2-4; col.3 line 56-59/wherein each apparatus is connected to port"), comprising: selecting the type of the audio apparatus ("fig.6-8; col.7 line 34-39"); and selectively connecting an audio circuit part co-operable with the selected audio apparatus type from among the plurality of the audio circuit parts and each one of the connection ports ("fig.3(61,101); fig.6(407); ;col.3 line 47-51; 64-67/circuit is cooperable with selected audio apparatus") and a switching unit causing each one of the connection port to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to the connection ports (fig.3 (101);col.3 line 45-55).

Re claim 2, Carter et al. disclose of the control method of the computer system according to claim 1, wherein the selecting is performed by a type selection program based on an operating system to select the type of the audio apparatus ("fig.6-8; col.7 line 34-39").

Re claim 3, Carter et al. disclose the control method of the computer system according to claim 1, wherein the selecting of the type of the audio apparatus comprises displaying a user selection window for selecting the type of the audio apparatus on a computer system monitor ("fig.6-8").

Re claim 4, The control method of the computer system according to claim 3, further comprising detecting that the audio apparatus is connected to the connection port ("col.3 line 63-67"), wherein the user selection window is displayed on the monitor according to the detecting ("fig.6-8").

Re claim 5, Carter et al. disclose of the computer system comprising: at least two connection ports and an audio apparatus being connected to each of the connection ports ("col.3 line 45-60"), a plurality of audio circuit parts operating according to a type of the audio apparatus ("fig.4; col.4 line 21-25"); and a switching unit causing each one of the connection port to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to the connection ports (fig.3 (101);col.3

Art Unit: 2614

line 45-55) and a control part controlling selective connection of the at least one connection port to one of the plurality of the audio circuits operable with the audio apparatus type ("fig.1-3;col.4 line 63 up to col.5 line 5").

Re claim 6, the computer system according to claim 5, wherein the control part is a machine-readable storage storing a type selection program based on an operating system ("see fig.2(53,55,57)").

Re claim 7, the computer system according to claim 6, further comprising a switching part controlled by the type selection program to selectively connect the plurality of the audio circuit parts and the at least two connection ports to each other ("fig.3").

Re claim 8, the computer system according to claim 7, wherein the type selection program displays a user selection window for selecting the type of the audio apparatus on a monitor ("fig.1;fig.3; fig.8").

Re claim 9, the computer system according to claim 8, wherein the type selection program displays the user selection window for selecting the type of the audio apparatus on the monitor, upon connection of the audio apparatus to the connection port ("fig.6-8/ for connectiong apparatus to port").

Art Unit: 2614

Re claim 12, Carter et al. disclose of a sound card mounted on a computer system and inputting/outputting a sound, comprising: at least two connection ports; an audio apparatus being connected to each one of the connection ports ("fig.2-4; col.3 line 45-60"), a plurality of audio circuit parts operating according to a type of the audio apparatus ("fig.3(61,101);col.3 line 64-67/circuit is cooperable with selected audio apparatus"); and a switching unit part, selectively connecting an audio circuit part co-operable with the type of the audio apparatus form among the plurality of audio circuit parts and each one of the connection ports (col.3 line 60-67/switch determined the already connected port to appropriate circuit parts among the many in the sound card) , the switching part causing each one of the connection port to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to each connection port (fig.3 (101);col.3 line 45-55).

Re claim 13, the sound card according to claim 12, wherein the switching part selectively connects according to a type selection program executing in the computer system ("fig.2; col.3 line 10-14/execute by programs; col.5 line 29-32").

Re claim 14, Carter et al. disclose of the computer sound card, comprising: two or more connection ports to which audio apparatuses are connected ("fig.3/multiple audio to sound cards"), and an audio signal processor processing input and/or output audio signals from/to



Art Unit: 2614

the audio apparatuses connected to any one of the connection ports independent of a type of each audio apparatus ("fig.1,3/fig.5/:the processor (audio switch see fig.3(101)) processor to configured independently the multiple audio signals receive/ outputted"), and a switching unit part, selectively connecting an audio circuit part co-operable with the type of the audio apparatus form among the plurality of audio circuit parts and each one of the connection ports (col.3 line 60-67/switch determined the already connected port to appropriate circuit parts among the many in the sound card) , a switching unit causing each one of the connection ports to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type that is connected to the connection ports (fig.3 (101);col.3 line 45-55).

Re claim 15, the computer sound card of claim 14, wherein the audio signal processor comprises: a controllable controller selectively connecting each connection port to the audio circuit parts compatible with the audio apparatus type connected to each connection port ("fig.4(207); col.4 line 64 up to col.5 line 5").

Re claim 16, Carter et al. disclose the machine-readable storage storing at least one program controlling a multimedia component of a computer according to a process comprising (fig.1-3): displaying a connection port selection window (fig.8A); selecting a multimedia

Art Unit: 2614

apparatus type for at least one connection port; and controlling the multimedia component to connect the at least one connection port to a compatible information signal processor of the multimedia component according to the selection (fig.8A-8C; col.7/user has option to select for controlling output transducer via computer(fig.1-2)) and a switching unit causing each one of the connection ports to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type that is connected to the connection ports (fig.3 (101);col.3 line 45-55) and wherein each of the connection port is selectively connectable to the information signal processor of the multimedia component compatible with the multimedia apparatus type (see claim 1 rejection).

Re claim 18. Carter et al. disclose of the computer system, comprising: a multimedia component having two or more same standard connection ports; and a programmed computer processor detecting connection of a multimedia apparatus to one of the connection ports("fig.4 with (205); col.4 line 53-60"), displaying a graphical user interface comprising connection port images corresponding to the connection ports of the multimedia component, activating multimedia apparatus type selection menus for each connection port image, and controlling the multimedia component to connect the one connection port connected to the detected multimedia apparatus to a compatible information signal processor of the multimedia component according to a multimedia apparatus type selection in the activated multimedia

Art Unit: 2614

apparatus type selection menu for the one connection port ("fig.8/menu enable user to activate connection port configuration and further fig.3(61,101);col.3 line 64-67/circuit is cooperable/compatible with selected audio apparatus for various audio port connections"), a switching unit causing each one of the connection ports to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type that is connected to the connection ports (fig.3 (101);col.3 line 45-55) and wherein each of the connection ports is selectively connectable to the information signal processor of the multimedia component compatible with the multimedia apparatus (see claim 1 rejection).

Re claim 19, Carter et al. disclose of the method of informing a user of a connection status in a device having a plurality of audio signal input and/or output ports ("fig.4(205)/among plurality of input/output detecting circuit available; col.3 line 64-67"), the method comprising detecting which one of the input and/or output ports is currently connected to an external device ("fig.4(205);col.4 line 52-55"); and outputting a first detection signal for detecting at least one port which has the external device connected thereto ("col.5 line 44-51/detecting signal for informing status of phone connections and output via (fig.8) for enabling configuration"), and selectively connecting each of the connection ports to one of a plurality of audio circuit parts co-operable with the external device connected to each of the connection ports and a switching unit causing each one of the connection ports to be able to be connected to the

Art Unit: 2614

appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to the connection ports (fig.3 (101);col.3 line 45-55).

Re claim 21, the method according to claim 19, further comprising sending an audio signal at a first time and receiving another audio signal at a second time using a single port ("col.4 line 53 up to col.5 line 5/ off hook to send info and configuration/second info signals may be received via single or a port as disclosed and futher see fig.4(209)").

Re claim 22, the method according to claim 21, wherein the sending an audio signal at a first time comprises of sending a speaker signal generated from a sound generating device in a computer ("col.1 line 4/speakers").

Re claim 23, The method according to claim 21, wherein the receiving another audio signal at a second time comprises of receiving an audio signal from an external device ("col.1 line 32;fig.3/among multiple external device is a mike to send audio signal").

Re claim 24, the method according to claim 21, wherein the receiving another audio signal at a second time comprises of receiving audio signal from a mike ("col.4 line 9-20").

Re claim 25, the method according to claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of input and/or output port is capable of receiving and sending audio signal to and from the external device ("fig.4(209) with external device from (201,203)").

Re claim 26, the method according to claim 19, further comprising sending an audio signal generated from a sound generating device of a computer ("col.1 line 4/speakers").

Re claim 27, the method according to claim 26, wherein the computer is a personal computer ("fig.1").

Re claim 28, the method according to claim 26, further comprising receiving an audio signal generated from the external device ("see claim 25").

Re claim 29, the method according to claim 28, wherein the external device includes a microphone ("col.7 line 49-55/headset mike").

Re claim 30, the method according to claim 29, wherein the computer is a personal computer ("fig.1").

Art Unit: 2614

Re claim 31, the method according to claim 29, wherein the external device includes a device capable of generating an audio output capable of being connected to a line-in port of a computer ("fig.3; col.3 line 49-56").

Re claim 32, the method according to claim 31, wherein the computer is a personal computer ("fig.1").

Re claim 33, the method according to claim 19, further comprising assigning a function to the detected port in the detecting step ("col.4 line 57-61/detector(205) direct operation of controller (207) which enable the function of col.5 line 1-5").

Re claim 34, The method according to claim 33, wherein the assigning a function comprises of selecting either of receiving an audio signal function or sending an audio signal function ("fig.3-4; and further see col.5 line 5-18").

Re claim 35, the method according to claim 34, wherein the receiving an audio signal function includes receiving an audio signal from an external device comprising a mike ("col.7 line 49-55/headset mike").

Re claim 36, the method according to claim 35, wherein the sending an audio signal function includes sending an audio signal

Art Unit: 2614

generated from a sound generating device of a computer ("col.1 line 4/speakers").

Re claim 37, the method according to claim 36, wherein the computer is a personal ("fig.1").

Re claim 38, the method according to claim 36, wherein the step of assigning a function or the sending function is performed in accordance with a user input ("fig.8; col.7 line 40-47; fig.1-2/assign function done by user input").

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 10-11, 17, 20, 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter et al. ("7,039,205") and further in view of Fado et al. ("6,504,553 B2").

Art Unit: 2614

Re claim 10, Carter et al. disclose the computer system according to claim 9, However, Carter et al. fail to disclose of the further limitation wherein in the user selection window is a connection port display window to display whether the audio apparatus is connected to a corresponding connection port via each displayed connection port. But, Fado et al. disclose a system with sound card in which include the further limitation wherein in the user selection window is a connection port display window to display whether the audio apparatus is connected to a corresponding connection port via each displayed connection port ("fig.8;col.3 line 40-50") for the purpose of helping a user through troubleshooting when it appears of the existence of wrong audio connection. Thus, taking the combined teaching of Carter et al. and Fado et al. as a whole, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to modify Carter et al. by incorporating the further limitation wherein in the user selection window is a connection port display window to display whether the audio apparatus is connected to a corresponding connection port via each displayed connection port for the purpose of helping a user through troubleshooting when it appears of the existence of wrong audio connection as taught by Fado et al.

Re claim 11, the computer system according to claim 10, wherein the port display window provides an audio apparatus type selection button for each displayed connection port, and the type selection program controls the switching part so that if the audio apparatus



Art Unit: 2614

type selection button is selected for a displayed connection port, the connection port corresponding to the displayed connection port with the selected audio apparatus type selection button is activated by connecting the audio circuit part corresponding to the selected audio apparatus type selection button with the corresponding connection port ("Fado, fig.1-8; col.5 line 65 up to col.6 line 6; col.7 line 30-37/user may select through display connection port").

Re claim 17 have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claims 11 above.

Re claim 20, Carter et al. disclose of the method according to claim 19, However, Carter et al. fail to disclose of the further limitation comprising displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first signal. But, Fado et al. disclose of the specific wherein displaying an indication to the user in dependence of a first signal (fig.8; col.5 line 40-65/display and signal connections as appropriate). Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified the combination with the displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first signal for the purpose of helping a user through troubleshooting and determining the proper audio settings.

Re claim 39, Carter et al disclose a method of informing a user of a connection status in a device having a plurality of signal input and/or output ports ("fig.1-8"), the method comprising: detecting

Art Unit: 2614

which one of the input and/or output ports is currently connected to an external device; outputting a first detection signal for detecting at least one port which has the external device connected thereto ("col. 4 line 30-52/detectin mean(off/on hook) and outputting detecting signal with; and further see col.5 line 44-51/detecting signal for informing status of phone connections and output via (fig.8) for enabling configuration").

While, carter et al. disclose of the above limitation, he fail to further disclose of the displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first signal. But, Fado et al. disclose of the specific wherein displaying an indication to the user in dependence of a first signal (fig.8; col.5 line 40-65/display and signal connections as appropriate). Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified the combination with the displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first signal for the purpose of helping a user through troubleshooting and determining the proper audio settings.

The combined teaching of Carter et al. and Fado et al. as a whole, disclose assigning a function to the detected port ("col.4 line 57-61/detector(205) direct operation of controller (207) which enable the function of col.5 line 1-5"); wherein the assigning function comprises of selecting either one of receiving a signal from an external device or sending a signal to an external device ("fig.3-4;

Art Unit: 2614

and further see col.5 line 5-18") and wherein each of the connection ports is selectively connectable to one of the input and/or output ports co-operable with the external device connected to each of the connection ports, a switching unit causing each one of the connection ports to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to the connection ports (fig.3 (101); col.3 line 45-55/plurality of audio with corresponding ports for connection).

#### Conclusion

**The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Baker et al. (US 7,099,481 B2) disclose of having**

"selectively connecting an audio circuit part cooperable with the selected audio apparatus type from among the plurality of the audio circuit parts and a switching unit causing the connection port to be able to be connected to the appropriate one of the audio circuit parts, depending on the audio apparatus type connected to the connection ports" (fig.3-4 (62); col.4 line 30-60).

#### Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Disler

Art Unit: 2614

Paul whose telephone number is 571-270-1187. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chin Vivian can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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